

ADVISORY BOARD ON TEACHER EDUCATION AND LICENSURE (ABTEL)

Minutes

Meeting Date and Location:

September 15, 2003
Sheraton Richmond West Hotel
Richmond, Virginia

ABTEL Members Present:

Rene Ashjian
Cynthia Baird
Sharon Condrey
Nancy Davenport
Judy Davis-Dorsey
Ron Diss

Bill Graves
Margaret Shibley Gray
Rebecca Hill
Mark Ingerson
Linda Kelly
Cheryl Lightfoot

Suzanne Meyer
Nancy Miller
Dale Sander
James Scott
Rená White

ABTEL Member Absent:

Rita Thompson

Board of Education Liaison:

Ella P. Ward (absent)

Ex-Officio Members:

Wendy Weiner for Toni Cleveland
Gary Krapf for Nancy Cooley

Department of Education Staff:

Thomas A. Elliott
JoAnne Y. Carver
Patty S. Pitts

Guest:

Betty Lambdin, Virginia Education Association

FULL BOARD MEETING

Dr. Judy Davis Dorsey, member-at-large, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. and welcomed members and guests.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Dr. Thomas A. Elliott, Department of Education's Liaison to ABTEL and assistant superintendent, Division of Teacher Education and Licensure, congratulated and welcomed new and returning advisory board members appointed by the Virginia Board of Education. The following new members were introduced:

Rene Massey Ashjian
Business Community Representative
Glen Allen, Virginia

Rebecca Hill
Classroom Teacher (Middle)
Rockbridge County Schools

Cynthia D. Baird
Classroom Teacher (Secondary)
Prince William County Schools

James B. Scott
Division Superintendent
Scott County Schools

Dr. William H. Graves, III
Higher Education (Public) Representative
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, Virginia

Dr. Elliott acknowledged, in her absence, Dr. Ella P. Ward, member of the Chesapeake City School Board and the Virginia Board of Education, as the new Board of Education liaison to the advisory board. He also recognized Dr. Wendy Weiner, who represented the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), and Dr. Gary Krapf, who represented the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). Returning members of the advisory board introduced themselves. Betty Lambdin, Virginia Education Association representative, introduced herself to the advisory board members.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Suzanne Meyer made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Cheryl Lightfoot seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Linda Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2003, advisory board meeting. Nancy Davenport seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Election of Officers

Dr. Judy Davis-Dorsey, 2002 elected member-at-large, served as the presiding officer for the 2003 elections. **Cheryl Lightfoot nominated Linda Kelly and Ron Diss nominated Mark Ingerson for chair of the advisory board.** Each nominee was given the opportunity to speak briefly on his or her qualifications. **A vote of 12 to 5 by roll**

call resulted in the election of Linda Kelly as the ABTEL chair. Ms. Kelly presided for the remainder of the meeting.

Dale Sander nominated Mark Ingerson and Mark Ingerson nominated Nancy Davenport for vice chair. Rená White made a motion to close the nominations and Suzanne Meyer seconded the motion. The motion to close nominations carried. Linda Kelly provided the opportunity for nominees to speak regarding their qualifications. Nancy Davenport was elected vice chair by a roll call vote of 11 to 6.

Selection of a Member-At-Large to Serve on the Executive Committee

Mark Ingerson nominated Suzanne Meyer and James Scott nominated Judy Davis-Dorsey for the position of member-at-large on the executive committee. Ron Diss made a motion to close the nominations. Sharon Condrey seconded the motion. The motion to close nominations carried. Judy Davis-Dorsey was elected as member-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee by a roll call vote of 13 to 4.

Appointments of Chairs to the Teacher Education and Teacher Licensure Committees

Linda Kelly appointed Ron Diss the chair of the Teacher Education Committee and Dale Sander the chair of the Teacher Licensure Committee.

Overview and Assignments to the Advisory Board's Standing Committees

Dr. JoAnne Y. Carver briefly explained the role of the Teacher Education Committee, and Patty S. Pitts provided an overview of the Teacher Licensure Committee. Members of the advisory board signed up to serve on the standing committees as follows. Rita Thompson was assigned to the Teacher Education Committee.

Teacher Education

(JoAnne Y. Carver, staff liaison)

Ron Diss, chair

Rene Ashjiaan
Cynthia Baird
Sharon Condrey
Nancy Davenport
Rita Thompson
Rená White
Gary Krapf (SCHEV Representative)
Wendy Weiner (VCCS Representative)

Teacher Licensure

(Patty S. Pitts, staff liaison)

Dale Sander, chair

Judy Davis-Dorsey
Bill Graves
Rebecca Hill
Mark Ingerson
Cheryl Lightfoot
Suzanne Meyer
Nancy Miller
Jim Scott
Margaret Shibley Gray

Approval of Meeting Dates

Judy Davis-Dorsey made a motion to approve meeting dates proposed for the 2003-04 year. Mark Ingerson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The following meeting dates were approved for the 2003-04 year:

November 17, 2003	Richmond
January 26, 2004	Richmond
March 15, 2004	Virginia State University
April 19, 2004	Richmond

Dr. Elliott emphasized the importance of advisory board members contacting the hotel if reservations for lodging are needed and registering using the approved state reimbursement rate within the stated deadline. He also emphasized the need for ABTEL members to be actively involved in the important issues to be discussed. He reviewed the following procedures from the 1998 *Operating Procedures* regarding attendance of members: a) First missed meeting – receive a call from Dr. Elliott; b) Second missed meeting – Superintendent of Public Instruction advised; c) Third missed meeting – President, Board of Education advised.

No Child Left Behind Act: “Implications for Teacher Education and Licensure in Virginia”

A presentation on the implications for teacher education and licensure in Virginia regarding the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) was given to the full board. Also presented was an overview of the definition of highly qualified teachers and an explanation of the definition of *High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation* (HOUSSE) and the need for HOUSSE criteria to be developed by Virginia to meet rigorous requirements in the core academic content areas. Dr. Elliott discussed Virginia’s proposed licensure regulations for middle school endorsements and noted that federal regulations are more stringent than those proposed in Virginia. ABTEL’s role is to assure compliance with NCLB through study, comparison, and alignment of proposed regulations to determine if federal guidelines have been met. Dr. Elliott provided highlights of the *State Performance Targets for High Qualified Teachers, Instructional Paraprofessionals, and Professional Development* for the 2002-03 school year:

- 80% - Percentage of classes taught by highly qualified teachers in the aggregate.
- 73% - Percentage of classes being taught by highly qualified teachers, in the aggregate in highest quartile poverty schools.
- 83% - Percentage of classes being taught by highly qualified teachers, in the aggregate in lowest quartile poverty schools.
- 85% - Percentage of teachers receiving high-quality professional development, in the aggregate.
- 24% - Percentage of highly qualified paraprofessionals, in the aggregate.

Proposals for Praxis I Alternate Assessment Procedures

Dr. Elliott presented to ABTEL members a request from Board of Education president Thomas M. Jackson, Jr., to solicit from the advisory board proposals for Praxis I alternate assessment. Mr. Jackson requests proposals that provide strategies comparable to the highly rigorous scores already required by the board for satisfying Praxis I requirements. Examples included, alternatives such as waiving Praxis I for SAT scores under certain conditions, using established standard error of measurement scores on the reading, writing, and math exams, and evidence of course completion and successful teaching as components of an appeals procedure for Board of Education consideration. ABTEL's licensure committee will formulate recommendations for full ABTEL consideration on alternate assessment proposals by the November 17, 2003, meeting.

Virginia's Reading Assessment Initiative

Dr. JoAnne Y. Carver gave a presentation on Virginia's Reading Instructional Assessment (VRA) Initiative. NCLB requires demonstration of competence in teaching skills for elementary teachers to be determined highly qualified as of July 1, 2006. The purpose of the VRA is to require, for initial licensure, a reading assessment of preK-3, preK-6, special education teachers, and reading specialists no later than July 1, 2004. National Evaluation Systems, Inc. has been contracted to modify an assessment for this purpose. There will be two tests, one for teachers and one for reading specialists. Tests will be aligned with Virginia Standards of Learning, Virginia Licensure Regulations, and the National Reading Panel's five key components of reading instruction: 1) phonics; 2) phonemic awareness; 3) vocabulary; 4) comprehension; and, 5) fluency. In-service teachers may opt to take the VRA or be validated via professional development highly qualified activities based on VRA test competencies. It is important that members of ABTEL, as appropriate, participate in reading initiative activities as well as share information with the general public. The Teacher Education Committee will monitor and support the design and implementation of the reading instructional assessment. Key activities and timelines associated with the initiative are as follows:

September-October, 2003	Telephone Interviews with key Virginia educators and policymakers
October, 2003-January, 2004	Bias Review, Content Review, and Performance Standard Setting Committees
February-April, 2004	Field Test
Fall, 2004	Initial VRA Administration
July, 2005	Establishment of Cut Scores
July, 2006	Reading assessment required for initial licensure

Teacher Education and Licensure (TEAL) System-The First Phase of Virginia's Comprehensive Data System

Patty S. Pitts made a presentation on the *Teacher Education and Licensure (TEAL) System-The First Phase of Virginia's Comprehensive Data System*. Phase I of the TEAL System was implemented on July 28, 2003. In describing the system, Ms. Pitts used the analogy of "building a house." Phase I, she said, should be considered as the foundation. The "house" must still be built. The new system is capable of generating in excess of 200 reports and will offer such added features as online Praxis scores; an expanded data collection system referred to as Licensure 2000, including information on teacher education tracking and an exemplary educators database; an interface with the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification to permit sharing of data; and, the use of imaging instead of microfiche by December, 2003. Next steps in the TEAL implementation process will involve focus on the following: instructional personnel collection; license query for the public; password-protected license application status for school divisions; bulk license renewals via the Web; college and university approved programs annual report; and, online applications/credit cards. Phase II of Virginia's Comprehensive Data System will be completed in collaboration with the SCHEV.

Standing Committees

The Teacher Education and Teacher Licensure Committees held separate organizational meetings to discuss priority initiatives for the 2003-04 year.

Summary Reports and Proposed Initiatives from Standing Committees

Teacher Education Committee

The Teacher Education Committee will address the following initiatives during the 2003-04 year:

1. During the first year of development, monitor and support the design and implementation of the Virginia Reading Instructional Assessment (VRA) for teachers of special education, elementary preK-3 and preK-6 and reading specialists no later than July 1, 2004;
2. Receive plans to monitor and support the development and implementation of a state review of school leaders preparation programs during the 2003-2004 academic year;
3. Monitor development and design of Virginia's Career Switcher Program longitudinal study;

4. Receive training, participate, and develop recommendations to the Board of Education relative to teacher preparation approved programs under review for the 2003-04 year;
5. Receive a summary report and develop a recommendation to the Board of Education on the new pilot teacher education program approved at Christopher Newport University;
6. Develop implementation procedures to allow interested teacher education approved programs the opportunity to award the *Meritorious New Teacher Candidate* designation, effective July 1, 2004; and
7. Establish program initiatives that support innovative teacher preparation program strategies that address critical shortage teaching areas.

Teacher Licensure Committee

The Teacher Licensure Committee will address the following initiatives during the 2003-04 year:

1. Review and make recommendations regarding revisions in the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* as the regulations proceed through the procedures of the Administrative Process Act;
2. Recommend an assessment for native speakers or candidates who have learned a foreign language without formal academic credit to demonstrate competency in the foreign language endorsement area;
3. Review the Standard-Setting Study for the Praxis II test, Education of Exceptional Students: Core Content Knowledge, and recommend an assessment and qualifying scores for special educators seeking initial licensure;
4. Validate and conduct match studies on Praxis II assessments for mental retardation and emotional disturbances, review studies conducted for the Praxis II learning disabilities test, and make recommendations on the use of the assessments for individuals in mild/moderate disabilities to add additional endorsements by examinations;
5. Develop proposals for Praxis I Alternate Assessments; and
6. Monitor continued development of a blueprint to design a multi-tiered licensure system for ABTEL's recommendation and Board of Education approval.

Liaison Reports

The Virginia Community College System (VCCS)

Dr. Wendy Weiner provided updates on two Virginia Community College teacher preparation initiatives. She announced that during late September there will be a public signing of four teacher education articulation agreements between the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and George Mason University, Mary Baldwin College, Longwood University, and Virginia Union University addressing the areas of prek-6, middle school education, and selected special education programs. Later this year, a meeting will be held for two-and four-year institutions to discuss strategies for advising students participating in the agreements.

Dr. Weiner also indicated that VCCS staff is finalizing a proposal designed to prepare career switchers to teach in the areas of math, chemistry, and earth science. Recruitment efforts will focus on individuals with, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree in one of these areas. Individuals will complete a 180-clock hour program and must agree to teach in one the critical shortage areas for which they have received preparation. Dr. Weiner described the new program as a "hybrid distance education/mentor supported program." The program is scheduled to begin in January 2004, and will be offered at four community college sites to be determined.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)

Dr. Gary Krapf presented information on several SCHEV initiatives and activities. He announced that during the upcoming year SCHEV would place major emphasis on looking at preK-20 education in order to permit a much greater integrated approach to addressing the needs of youth in Virginia. SCHEV staff will be working closely with staff in the Virginia Department of Education to eliminate, as much as possible, any duplication of efforts. SCHEV will also collaborate with VCCS in implementing the articulation and transfer agreement initiative already under way. Additionally, an office will be established within SCHEV related to Governor Warner's *Senior Year Plus* initiative. *Gear Up*, a \$10.5 million pre-collegiate grant managed by SCHEV, will provide support to 4,300 underserved youth in high poverty areas in Southwest Virginia. Dr. Krapf shared a detailed handout on the *VirginiaMentor* system, an Internet-based, integrated student services system designed to aid prospective students in the college search, selection, and application processes in the state of Virginia. The system will go live as of September 15, 2003. *VirginiaMentor* will allow colleges and universities in Virginia to reach out to students on a local, regional, or national level and help students prepare for the collegiate experience by providing them with an interactive medium to explore postsecondary education options.

Department of Education

Dr. Thomas Elliott recognized Betty Lambdin, the Virginia Education Association representative, for her faithful support of ABTEL. He provided the advisory board a copy of the *First Year Funding Summary* of initiatives from the Governor's Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant. Awards and encumbrances for year one of the grant total \$3,559,000 to date. Dr. Elliott made the following announcements:

- *September 23, 2003 – State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Jo Lynne DeMary, and members of her Executive Committee will announce the eight Regional Teachers of the Year during surprise notifications at their schools.*
- *October 24, 2003 – A selection panel will meet at the Sheraton Richmond West hotel to select the Virginia State Teacher of the Year. A reception and banquet honoring the Virginia Teacher of the Year and the eight Regional Teachers of the Year will be held later that evening at the hotel. ABTEL members are invited to attend.*
- November 20-21, 2003 – Virginia Teacher Quality Forum will be held at the Sheraton Richmond West Hotel.
- November 20, 2003 – A banquet and reception honoring 2003 Milken Educators will be held on the first evening of the Forum. ABTEL members are invited to attend the Teacher Quality Forum and the banquet.

Adjournment

The advisory board meeting was adjourned.